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HABIB CHATTY ON STRATEGY FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 22 Aug 80 p 9

[Article: "Mr Chatty at the Meeting of Moslem Thinkers: Perfecting a Strategy to Enable the Islamic Countries to Accept Challenges"]

[Text] The committee of Moslem thinkers in charge of preparing the draft proclamation of the Third Islamic Summit, which will be held in Mecca at the beginning of the new century of the Hegira, began its work yesterday morning at the Hilton Hotel in Tunis, under the chairmanship of Mr Habib Chatty, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Taking part in this meeting, which will last for three days, will be ulemas from the different Arab countries, such as Dr Habib Belkhoja, mufti of the Tunisian Republic, Dr Hassan Tourabi, Sudanese minister of justice, Dr Abdallah Nacif, rector of "King Abdelaziz" University at Jedda, Dr Ezzeddine Ibrahim, cultural counselor for Emir Zayed Ibn Soltane Nahiyane, chief of state of the United Arab Emirates.

In a short speech made on that occasion, Mr Habib Chatty pointed out that the coming of the new century of the Hegira constituted a favorable occasion for the issuance of a proclamation which would light the way for the Islamic nation, stressing the need to perfect a strategy enabling the Islamic countries to accept the challenges thrust upon them by certain hegemonic currents.

After analysing the political and economic factors having brought about the situation which prevails in the Moslem world at present, Mr Habib Chatty pointed out that the great powers, which are currently the masters of the world and which, moreover, are living through a crisis in moral and religious values, are trying by all possible means to sap the efforts of the Islamic community to erect a society steadfastly attached to its independence and to its own values.

Mr Chatty affirmed that the Islamic nation owes it to itself, on the eve of the coming of the new century of the Hegira, to carry on a dual struggle in order to triumph over underdevelopment and to cope with maneuvers aimed at strengthening the Zionist entity, usurping the richness of the Islamic nation and accentuating its political, economic and cultural dependence.

"That is the reason why," he noted, "it is important for the Moslems to define a strategy which would enable the Islamic world to occupy the place it merits in the concert of nations, to exploit for its benefit its richness and to improve the level of living of the individual, which, it has found, should constitute the foremost objective of all developmental action."

In this context, Mr Habib Chatty indicated that in order to reach this goal, it is imperative for the Islamic community, in the present state of affairs, to give further proof of solidarity and to direct its efforts, all its efforts, towards future generations, by inculcating them with an education whose foundations lie in Islamic values and by facilitating their access to the exact sciences, which constitute the most effective weapon against the various Zionist maneuvers." [as published]

At the end of Mr Habib Chatty's speech, the participants turned their attention to the working document prepared by the secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

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PLO OFFICIAL SUGGESTS OVERSEAS INFORMATION STRATEGY

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 30 Jul 80 p 3

[Interview with Director of the PLO's Paris Office Ibrahim al-Sus, by 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Mit'al; date and place not given]

[Text] There is no doubt that overseas Arab information about pivotal issues constitutes a cornerstone in any strategy intended to support Arab stands in various political, military and economic fields.

Therefore, this issue is receiving special attention from Arab information officials, out of their awareness of the importance of the written word and the role which information media have come to play in influencing various sectors of public opinion.

Modern development, along with the complexity of international circumstances and the growing role of public opinion in influencing the official decision-making process, has necessitated a unified Arab information strategy based on a common conception of the dimensions and goals of Arab overseas information. ,

A unified Arab will is the only way to gain the world's respect for us and to determine the destiny of our fateful issues. Such a unified will in the information field will not be achieved except through a unified strategy which knows how to speak to modern society in the language it understands, in order to erase the mistaken picture which has become firmly planted in the minds of some people because of hostile colonialist and Zionist propaganda.

In view of the nature of the current stage and its issues, at the head of which is the Middle East issue, the rights of the Palestinian people, and Zionist propaganda's successful deception operations in some Western European and American societies, Arab overseas information has a big job ahead of it consistent with the nature of the stage.

We held this interview about Arab overseas information and its challenges with Director of the PLO Paris Office Ibrahim al-Suss, who is now the

candidate for the post of Arab League information advisor and the post of information director for the league's General Secretariat.

Speaking of ways to develop Arab overseas information, Ibrahim al-Sus started out by stressing that there has been an improvement in world public opinion about major Arab causes, especially the Palestinian cause. This was not the result of direct propaganda, but was caused by practical political and economic circumstances which demonstrated just how much the West urgently needed the Arab economy and Arab markets in general, in addition to the significant influence of the Palestinian revolution and its direct and indirect information.

He said, "What is required of Arab information in the West in this stage is not propaganda aimed at changing international public opinion or giving a practical picture of Arab life, but propaganda aimed at changing that conception which makes our land nothing but an oil well and a center for international competition and, at the same time, a force afraid of its own financial and economic influence."

Presenting a True Picture of the Arab World

Speaking of changing this unrealistic picture of the Arab world in the West's eyes, he went on to say, "Changing this picture primarily means bringing out the real aspects of our Arab world as it is, i.e. accentuating the real problems afflicting it as an integrated society enjoying economic, political and cultural resources, hopes, aspirations and a future-- i.e., to be precise, accentuating the fundamental social aspects which the propaganda agencies, concentrating only on petroleum so as to develop hostility towards the Arabs or else reducing Arab problems to a single political problem to be seen only in the context of the struggle between the two world camps, refuse to see."

In his talk, Ibrahim al-Suss stressed the necessity for Arab propaganda to make an effort to present a true, comprehensive picture of the Arab world which would allow the West to understand our problems as they really are, and which would provide the opportunity for a dialog based on sound, fruitful bases.

Distinct Arab Messages to the World

He said, "Arab information has not yet been able to achieve very many positive results in the West, not because of technical reasons, but mainly because of substantive reasons pertaining to content." He stressed the Arab world's need for special, distinct messages propagandizing for it, whether in the political, economic or cultural spheres. He added, "If any society does not have a distinct message to present to the world, all its propaganda becomes nothing more than a demand that the world support this or that cause without being convinced of the justness of these causes."

Our Heritage and Western Lessons

In explaining the Arab information problem, he said, "If we may exclude the Palestinian issue, the Arabs have not gotten, on the economic world, what they are demanding from the West, while the West is accusing the Arabs of having huge capital throughout the world and vast resources. The world is demanding help from the Arabs at a time when the Arab economy is suffering from major problems affecting all the economies of the developing countries.

On the cultural level, we are not offering any new experience in cultural development which would take into account our Arab heritage and culture and our future aspirations." Ibrahim al-Sus expressed his conviction that "we have not yet succeeded in reconciling this heritage with our present cultural needs."

Since the question about ways of developing Arab information still remained, the director of the PLO Paris office went on to say, "We feel that the development of Arab information in the West must be based on presenting a new experience and the real problems of our development, so that other states and other cultures might find in this experience some of the solutions to modern problems they are looking for.

"Then there can be a dialog and an exchange of opinion, and not merely informational propaganda or propagandistic information."

As a practical step along this road, he proposed the establishment of an Arab studies center in Paris which would recruit Arab researchers in the West to serve Arab goals. At the same time, it would be a research center and a cultural center presenting a picture of Arab cultural development and offering study grants for Arabs to take certain studies. Also, researchers from various countries would give classes in Arab and Islamic culture and civilization and also modern Arab society. The PLO office in France and UNESCO have both expressed their willingness to help make the preparations for carrying out such a proposal if the Arab League approves it.

The Role of the Zionist Lobby

Speaking of the role of Arab information in the United States as compared to Zionist information, Ibrahim al-Suss said, "They cannot be compared, since for 30 years the Zionist information media have found fertile territory on the American scene. They have been able to do whatever they want because of the special relations existing between the United States and Israel, and because of the Zionist lobby and its influence on the decisions of Congress and the successive American administrations."

He added, "Arab, and especially Palestinian, information is still making progress, because of the great efforts being made by the PLO and the Arab

information elite on the American scene, and especially what the Arab League offices in New York are doing.

"There is no doubt that Arab information could enter upon a path which started out hard and difficult years ago, by concentrating information efforts on certain groups in American society, such as the blacks for example. Here I would like to refer to the results achieved by the PLO's United Nation representative with the former American UN Permanent Delegate Andrew Young."

Ibrahim al-Sus explained that the PLO's information operates on the basis of winning over larger sectors of public opinion to side of the cause. He stressed that as the Arab information message has become more unified on the American scene, its influence on American public opinion has increased.

The Arab League and the Palestinian Cause

In response to a question about coordination between the PLO's work and the activity of the Arab League, he said, "There is no doubt that the Arab League, ever since Shadhili al-Qalibi became its president, had been making tireless efforts, on the political and cultural levels, to expound the Palestinian cause in the West and to refute the Camp David agreements." He expressed his extreme optimism that all the Arab League's steps will enable the consolidation of a dynamic Arab information line based on the presentation of Arab causes on the same level as contemporary causes.

He added, "We feel that the league will succeed in this task, the proof being that the information seminars being held under its auspices have taken it upon themselves to discuss all the problems facing Arab overseas information in detail."

At the end of his talk, Ibrahim al-Sus stressed that there is cooperation between the PLO offices and the Arab League offices. But he expressed the hope that the league's general secretariat will be able to issue directions to its offices so that the league's support for the PLO offices can be more effective, especially with respect to overseas information projects being undertaken by the PLO.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 21 Aug 80 p 1

[Article: "Several Arab Ministers of Economy and Finance Received at the Casbah: Mr Mzali Calls for the Setting Up of an Arab Plan for Economic Development"]

[Text] Mr Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister, yesterday afternoon received at the Government Palace in the Casbah several Arab ministers of the economy and of finance currently staying in Tunis to take part in the work of the Arab Economic Committee.

Present at the interview were Messrs Mansour Moalla, minister of planning and finance, Mezri Chekir, director of the prime minister's cabinet, Kacem Bouenina, the Tunisian ambassador to Jeddah, and Abdelhassan Zelzela, deputy secretary general of the League of Arab States in charge of economic affairs.

On that occasion, Mr Mohamed Mzali recalled the considerable potentialities and the economic weight of the Arab world, which the Arab countries could take advantage of among themselves to institute a fruitful cooperation based on a community of interests.

The prime minister urged his guests to coordinate their efforts to promote the economy of the Arab countries and to reduce the acuteness of their dependence on the industrialized countries. He urged them, moreover, to continue the political struggle to achieve the unity of the Arab world.

The prime minister called for the completion of a long-term action strategy and for the setting up of an economic development plan for the Arab world, stressing the need for the Arab countries to intensify their cooperation in the industrialization of agriculture so as to insure the achievement of self-sufficiency in food.

Mr Mohamed Mzali expressed the hope of seeing the work of the Arab Economic Committee lead to proposals which could be submitted to the next Arab economic summit.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

KLIBI, CHATTI COMMENT ON NETHERLANDS WITHDRAWAL FROM JERUSALEM

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 28 Aug 80 pp 1, 5

[Article: "Tunis: An Act of Great Political Wisdom"]

[Text] When asked about the decision of the government of the Netherlands to transfer its embassy from El-Qods [Jerusalem] to Tel Aviv, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated:

"It is an act of great political wisdom and a significant contribution to the cause of justice and peace."

It is recalled that the ambassador of the Netherlands in Tunis was invited last Saturday, the 23rd, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he had a talk on this question with those in charge at the department.

Mr Klibi: A Wise Decision

"The decision of the Dutch government to transfer the location of the Dutch embassy from El-Qods to Tel Aviv is a wise decision, in conformance with Right and Justice, and preserving the friendship between the Arab world and the Netherlands," Mr Klibi, secretary-general of the League of Arab States, said yesterday.

Mr Klibi sent a telegram to Mr Christoph Van Der Klaauw, the Dutch foreign affairs minister, in which he congratulated the Dutch government's decision.

Mr Chatti: A Triumph For Right

The transfer of the embassies of the Netherlands and six other Latin American countries, following the Security Council's resolution condemning the Israeli decision to annex El-Qods, is a triumph of right over aggression, a victory of the international order for peace over an expansionism which generates instability and wars.

It is the first time that a decision of the Security Council, condemning Israel for its repeated attacks on the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, has been acted upon.

For the first time in the annals of the United Nations, countries have said no to the arrogance of the Zionists, thereby witnessing that they are faithful to the principles which they have promised to respect by their adherence to the UN charter.

However, this is only one crack in Israel's colonialist and oppressive structure.

It denotes, in spite of everything, a serious realization on the part of the international community of the dangers which Israel's intolerable acts of defiance present to peace.

While congratulating the initiative of the states that have acted on the Security Council's decision on El-Quds, the Islamic states are no less strongly determined to work in whatever way possible for the respect and application of the other resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council on the Holy land, the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

KHOMAYNI'S BRAND OF ISLAM CRITICIZED

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 11 Aug 80 p 25

[Article by Raja El-Almi]

[Text] Amazement. Consternation. "No prophet, including Mohamed himself, has completely succeeded in his mission of bringing justice to men. The only messenger who will succeed in establishing justice throughout the world will be the Imam Mahdi who is to come (al Mountadhar)," Khomeyni has said. This is by no means the allegation of a man who is demented, but rather it is a statement which has not yet been denied, made by the Iranian ayatollah during the holy month of Ramadan to the Moslem world. Even beyond its obvious sacrilegious and blasphemous nature, this statement by the man who represents the highest spiritual and temporal power in a nation of Islam, because of its excessive nature, does arouse a certain number of questions, and causes both faith and ordinary common sense to revolt.

It may perhaps be useful to comment here that the Iranian ayatollah and his mullahs have unfortunately done much--in fact they couldn't have done more--by their behavior and their words to implant the idea in the world of an Islam that is synonymous with intolerance and prohibitions, even outright obstructionism, of an Islam dominated by a hierarchy--a hierarchy, it is true, belonging to Shi'ism. In addition to the harm caused to Islam outside, there is also the damage which is now being done to all Moslems, who are being injured in the very depths of their faith and their convictions. This explains the number of protests that have been heard everywhere, criticizing the behavior, which is to say the least, unacceptable and inconceivable, of a man who is making use of

his position and his temporal power acquired after the Iranian revolution to reshape Islam to meet his desires. In so doing, he is acting falsely against the very essence of Islam and against its most fundamental precepts. In so doing, he is responsible for a sin even more serious than murder itself in Islam, Al Pitna. For we can only interpret his words in a way that we do not even like to formulate: that Khomeyni would recognize this Mahdi who is to come...that he has seen him already somewhere.

No, Islam, even Shi'ite Islam, is something other than this excessive affirmation of self as the representative of the only truth. Islam, the Islam of all Moslems, is a faith of vision and not of blindness. Islam also means the fundamental prohibition against disturbing the faith of the Moslem people. Islam is a religion that does not favor additions. It could not be more clear. This Islam is written in the Koran. And the reign of justice in the world has a time which the Koran contains and stipulates. In another way,

Citing the verses of the Koran, Dr Habib Belkhoja, mufti of the republic, pointed out during his speech on the occasion of the Night of Destiny, that Khomeyni's statements are doing a disservice to Islam and that "one who ignores the Sunna and contradicts the Koran can not claim to belong to Islam, and still less can he pretend to be its standard-bearer."

This is especially true as Islam is a unifying religion whose fundamental vocation is to group together, to unite, and not to divide. The Moslem must align his behavior according to this principle. And this is even more essential for the man of religion, who should set an example of the best and not the worst, and who should encourage believers to faith and not to heresy. This explains why the Islamic world has unanimously termed Khomeyni's words and his attitude shocking, for they clash with all of the Islamic world at the very time when this world is aspiring to recover the place it deserves, when the nations forming this Islamic world are changing, and when the Moslem people have the greatest need of solidarity, understanding, justice, dialogue, and cooperation. In this climate which calls for peace and fraternity, in this holy period of feasts and prayers, Khomeyni's statements are more than a discordant note; they are an unacceptable blasphemy, and like all blasphemies, can only be greeted by indignation against the lack of responsibility of their author. As proof, in Tunisia consider the reactions of the man in the street,

as soon as an ayatollah, overstepping the limits of his authority, dares to attack the very essence of Islam.

But in fact, those who have likened him to a Monsignor Lefebvre--with temporal power and with power over life and death added--were not mistaken.

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CNO: 4400

SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO TUNIS REPORTED

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 23 Aug 80 p 3

[Article] "Saudi Arabia Called Upon To Show the Greatest Concern for the Total Development of the Arab World")

[Text] Sheikh Mohamed Abalkheil, Saudi finance and economic minister, left Tunis yesterday, where he had taken part in the work of the Arab Economic Ministerial Committee, which had stemmed from the meeting of Arab foreign affairs and economy ministers last July in Amman.

In a statement to the press, Mr Abalkheil indicated that the Committee meeting was preparing what would be taken up by the Arab Economic Council in Tunis next 8 September, as well as the Arab summit meeting to be held in Amman in November 1980. That summit will examine, in particular, the economic relations among the Arab nations as well as with non-Arab countries.

He noted that the Arab summit meeting will have great importance because, first of all, it will study the means of providing a new impetus to the development of the least endowed Arab countries and of supporting the steps those countries are taking to achieve economic prosperity.

Saudi Arabia, Mr Abalkheil pointed out, has been called upon from now to show the greatest concern for the total development and the increase of living standards in the Arab world. This objective requires the utilization of all the available economic resources in the Arab countries, he emphasized.

The Ministerial Committee meeting in Tunis also insisted on the need to strengthen the Arab Economic Development Fund and the Arab Monetary Fund by increasing the resources entrusted to it and by simplifying the conditions for giving credit, he added.

Mr Abalkheil was met at "Tunis-Carthage" by Messrs Hassan Belkhoja, foreign affairs minister; Mansour Moalla, minister of planning and finance; Rached Bousnina, Tunisian ambassador in Jeddah; as well as by the Saudi embassy's charge in Tunis.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

ARAB INFORMATION COMMISSION STUDIES MEANS OF COUNTERING ISRAELI PROPAGANDA

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 23 Aug 80 p 6

[Article: "Toward a Believable and Objective Arab News Media"]

[Text] The Permanent Commission on Information in the Arab World continued its work yesterday at the headquarters of the League of Arab States, under the presidency of Mr Abdallah Hourani, director general of the Information Department of the PLO, and in the presence of Messrs Asaad El Asaad, adjunct secretary general of the league, and Khaled Al Daabaa, information director.

The meeting's agenda included, in particular, the examination of a certain number of work documents presented by the participating delegations, relative to getting the Arab news media to neutralize Israel's attempts to distort the Arab entity politically, socially and culturally. The participants insisted upon the need to give a dimension of "civilization" to Arab news, thus guaranteeing its credibility and objectivity.

The work of the Permanent Commission on Information in the Arab World will continue in Tunis until 24 August.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

ARAB MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FINISHES ITS WORK

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 22 Aug 80 p 4

[Article: "Examination of the Possibilities of a Common Arab Economic Strategy: Conclusion of the Work of the Arab Ministerial Committee"]

[Text] The Arab ministerial committee responsible for examining the possibilities of a common Arab economic strategy began its work Wednesday evening in Tunis, under the chairmanship of the Jordanian minister of industry and trade, Mr Ali Youssef El-Sennour.

This committee was set up by the conference of Arab ministers of foreign affairs and of the economy which was held last July in Amman. It includes the ministers of the economy or of finance of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Syria and the two Yemens.

The committee is to study different proposals concerning coordination and cooperation among the Arab countries in the economic field. It should prepare, to that end, a working document which it will submit to the next meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Arab League at the time of the Council's ordinary session held on 8 September next in Tunis. Once adopted by the Arab League Council, the document will be submitted to the Arab states' economic summit, whose meeting is expected to take place next November in Amman.

During the opening meeting, the Arab economic committee elected its chairman in the person of the Jordanian minister of industry and trade.

Before holding their meeting, the committee members were received by the Tunisian prime minister, Mr Mohamed Mradi, who urged them to combine their efforts for the finalization of a plan for the economic development of the Arab world.

The committee concluded its work under the chairmanship of Mr Ali Al Sennour [as published], in the presence of Dr Abdelhaesen Zeisala, deputy secretary general of the Arab League in charge of economic relations.

The committee adopted, on that occasion, a series of recommendations.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

INFORMATION COMMISSION ARAB STATES'--The League of Arab States' Standing Commission on Information will hold its 26th session from 21 to 24 August 1980. The agenda includes the examination of several items, in particular: The implementation of the decisions of the Council of Arab Ministers of Information; the draft budget of the fund for Arab propaganda; the recommendations of the Conference of European and American Experts on Information, a conference held in Tunis in February 1980; the recommendations of the Conference of Heads of Overseas Offices of the League of Arab States, held last July at the League of Arab States headquarters; the opening of new League offices in Vienna, Athens, Amsterdam, Mexico and Venezuela. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 18-19 Aug 80 p 4] 9434

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GOVERNMENT PURGE ENCOUNTERS COMPLICATIONS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Jul 80 p 3

/Article: "Petition from Purge Committees of 29 Government Departments to the Imam: Some Officials Are Putting up Obstacles to Purges in Departments"/

/Text/ A declaration has been published, as follows, by the committees to purge and reform departments in connection with the latest message by Imam Khomeyni:

In the name of God almighty:

If our government continues as it has and retains the condition and appearance it has had, we must hold a wake for this resurgence. We must now announce to the consultative council the fact that an absolute 100 percent religious Islamic government must not accept a minister if he is like some of the ministers who are present now.

/Addressed/ Imam Khomeyni.

This message is also in connection with the Imam's message of 27 June on the creation of satan and the revolutionary liquidation of the pollution of reasonous, mercenary elements connected with imperialism.

The purge committees have traveled this long road on which they had also taken steps as far as possible and as quickly as possible. Now more than 150 Purge committees have been created in a coordinated manner in various departments in the country and many projects in the field of implementing reforms have also been presented. However, unfortunately, some people in charge of matters have not only never taken part in this movement--they have also always thrown up obstacles in the way. Imam, realize that the National Employment and Administrative Affairs Organization has presented projects to the Revolutionary Council which are "demeaning to the guardians and beloved of the enemies." The committees present a bill to this organization which is beneficial to the satanic, to Savak members and to thieves and highwaymen, and sets a pension of up to 5,000 toman for them. Is this

the meaning of a revolutionary government? Up to 5,000 tomans' retirement for persons who sucked the blood of the nation up to yesterday and today are engaged in conspiring as well and laughing at the revolution? Five thousand tomans for the corrupt on the excuse that they have many dependents, but no thought is given to the condition of the downtrodden, who also have many dependents and are many times more deserving--is this the meaning of Islamic justice which these non-revolutionary gentlemen understand?

/Signed/ The purge committees of the Ministry of Power and the Water Organization, Regional Electricity, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Cooperation, the Directorate of Forests, industries, the Purge Committee of the Organization to Expand Iranian Industries, tobacco, General Motors, the Ministry of Roads, the railway, meteorology, National Airlines, Expansion of Iranian Roads, Ports and Shipping, the Ministry of Finance, Central Insurance, Iranian National Airlines, the Atomic Energy Organization, the Ministry of Labor, the dissolved houses of parliament, the Voice and Face of the Islamic Republic of Iran, religious endowments, the Red Crescent, PARS NEWS AGENCY, Planning Promulgator of the Naval Forces, Ministry of Housing and Town Construction, and the Ministry of Post and Telegraph.

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CSO: 4906

MAJLES TO GET ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PLAN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Jul 80 p 3

/Article: "Administrative Plan Will Be Presented to Parliament by the Islamic Society Federation in the Departments"/

/Text/ The Islamic societies met in the Interior Ministry auditorium yesterday afternoon in the presence of representatives of all the societies of government departments, Eng Mir 'alim, the undersecretary and chief supervisor of the General National Police, and some representatives of the Islamic Consultative Council.

These groups began by reading some verses from the glorious Koran. Then the latest message by the nation's emam was broadcast and, following Emam Khomeyni's message, one member of the Islamic Council of the Ministry of the Interior, enumerating the services of the Ministry of Interior's Islamic Society during the period after it started its activity, said, "After the constant opposition and obstinate million-man demonstrations by the tormented, suffering people of Iran and the solidarity and coordination of all groups and classes in the face of the tyranny of the degenerate imperial regime, the rotten vermin, and the likes of Ashari and the non-Bakhtiar, a number of employees of the Ministry of the Interior, like the other people locked up in the great prison of Iran, destitute from 'life' like 'death' and 'survival' like 'oblivion,' attended the raging sea of demonstrations and with their constant strikes and work slowdowns stood in the face of the pressure and threats of corrupt people like the Qarabaghis. However, they did not let up; they set forth and obstinately followed the leadership of the emam in their small and insignificant homes and societies." Then another of the brothers of the Islamic Society raised the plan in conjunction with the administrative system; part of that is as follows:

1. Personnel problems. 2. Organisational and structural problems. 3. The chaos in the laws and stipulations of the regulations. 4. Problems of administration. A discussion took place in detail regarding each part of this plan.

After that, Hojjatoleslam Muhammad Mojtahed Shabastari, Tehran representative to the Islamic Consultative Council, inaugurating this convocation,

said, "Changing the administrative system will be one of the jobs of the Islamic Consultative Council, and we accept the plans which are being presented." In another area he said, "It is a source of great good fortune that our nation has succeeded in feeling problems and it is you, departmental societies, who have seen the problems in the departments and have felt them; again, it is you who must try to eliminate the problems, and the legislative power is waiting to eliminate the problems and difficulties in its path by means of all the classes of the nation. If the legislative power is not together with you it will not have the power to solve all problems. Rather, it needs the cooperation of all classes and all thinking."

The next speaker was Zavare'i, undersecretary of interior. Regarding the codification of the administrative system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said, "On the one hand it is a source of sorrow that today, after 17 months, we have begun thinking about an administrative revolution. The administrative system we possess was set out by black satanic planners, and what has not been carried out in these 17 months is change, and a great part of this change is in the administrative system: unfortunately during these 17 months satan's system was retained." In conclusion, Mr Mir Salim, undersecretary of the interior and chief supervisor of the General National Police, stated, in the course of a speech, "What is at our disposal today is of value to the satan. There were three sections which were considered important to the previous regime; one was education, by means of which they wanted to eliminate the thinking of our generation, second were the media, especially the radio and television, in which not everyone could be employed, and the third were the general departments of the society." In conclusion he told the people attending this convocation, "Your responsibility is great, but greater responsibility lies on the Islamic Consultative Council, and it was on this subject that the imam issued instructions which must certainly be carried out." This convocation will also continue tomorrow to the Ministry of the Interior.

11887

CSO: 4906

PLANS FOR ISLAMIC FRONT STUDIED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Jul 80 p 3

/Article: "By Invitation of the Dawn of Hope Islamic Society: Method of Forming Islamic Front Subjected to Discussion"/

/Text/ In the course of a meeting at the invitation of the Dawn of Hope Islamic Society, the method of forming an Islamic front was discussed in the presence of Dr Abol Hasan Bani Sadr, Dr Yadollah Sahabi, Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, Dr Hasan Habibi, Dr Kazem Sami and Dr Mohammad Mobarlegi-Elami.

At the start of the session, the representative of the Dawn of Hope Islamic Society addressed the goal of this session as one of cooperating and sometimes reaching agreement regarding general issues on the formation of an Islamic front. In expressing disappointment regarding the failure of individuals who could not participate to participate in the session, he stressed the attendance of all the Islamic groups and the presentation of their views. In supporting the formation of this session with every group that was available, Dr Bani Sadr also said "Formation of the Islamic front is part of our charter in the Revolutionary Council." He added "We need a strong front which will be able to aid us in problems."

Dr Yadollah Sahabi then considered discussion of such issues to be essential and referred to the dangerous situation arising from differences and dissension and the need to have basic unity within society. Dr Sahabi also considered the discussions which took place in the parliament regarding nationality and nationalism to be an example of nationalism and the tree of the nationalists' evil.

Continuing the session, Dr Kazem Sami considered the need for a specific, clear definition of Islam for the formation of an advanced Islamic front and said, "If there is no clear, specific definition of Islam, how for example will you solve the problem of reception?"

On this subject, Dr Bani Sadr then stated "The basis of establishing a philosophy is also a kind of reception, as the philosophy of Plato is the

basis of establishment." He added, "Marxism is a continuation of the path of Plato, and one of the founders of Marxism is Plato. Aristotle is also the founder of a kind of religion."

Dr Bani Sadr considered this path of Aristotle's to be the cause of instability in decisions and daily changes in opinions and considered that one reason for the failure of Islamic movements was instability in decision-making.

Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili mentioned that suffering from dissension and fragmentation was one of the reasons for this gathering and added, "Our ultimate demand is unity." In another part of his statement, he pointed out "The issues which are the subject of dispute are those of nationhood and nationalism, prelatism, and the subject of reception. In my view the possibility of attaining conciliation on many matters is present, since we do not have disputes on all matters."

After a period of conversation and discussion by the participants, Dr Mobarzeghi-Eslami requested that the policy and issues which must constitute the subject of discussion in the sessions be determined. He recommended the slogan "Independence and freedom of the Islamic republic" as an issue to subject to discussion and in another part of his statements requested that several people be appointed to discuss and exchange views in the context of criteria and rules in subsequent sessions and then set them down and present them for review by public opinion.

In conclusion, Dr Bani Sadr recommended that one or two discussion meetings be held weekly in the home of Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, gathering together a number a number of people with opinions of different tendencies presenting the conclusions which are identified to others and then declaring them.

This recommendation was agreed to by the participants.

The Dawn of Hope Islamic Society also invited the public and people with opinions to send their opinions to the address at Post Box 3068, Tehran.

11887

CSO: 4905

FOREIGN STUDENTS' LEADER: AFGHAN INVASION WORRIES NATION

Oslo KLASSEKAMPEN in Norwegian 25 Jul 80 p 7

[Article by Geir Innset]

[Text] The news picture from Iran is spotty. There are constant reports of executions. What is the situation in Iran now? Where does Khomeyni stand? Are there contradictions within the Iranian Government? What is the Soviet Union doing in Iran?

KLASSEKAMPEN directed these question to Ghassem Momeni, international secretary of the Confederation of Iranian Students--CIS. CIS is an international organization of Iranian students in foreign countries. Under the shah's regime, CIS was an important oppositional force abroad. Ghassem is studying at the university in Lund, Sweden but he has regular contact with his homeland.

"Anarchy in Iran has increased dangerously. Before, there were battles between the government and various leftist groups and democratic groups. Now the situation is such that groups in the government plan coups against each other," Momeni says.

Sabotage From The Soviet Union

"What is the reason for this development?"

"I want to emphasize two points. First of all, sabotage from the Soviet Union, but also from the United States and its cohorts. Both sides are trying to undermine stability."

"Secondly, there is the idea of a monopoly--the regimentation of the Muslim priests. Everything must be Islamic. They do not respect the people's democratic rights. Other views are not tolerated. For this reason, disputes arise constantly."

"Is this true of the entire Islamic priesthood?"

"No. There are several factions. There are rightist fanatics who are bitter anticommunists and against the Islam that is struggling for independence and social progress, of which I am speaking. They have a majority in the government."

"They also have 43 percent of the seats in parliament. They say that they carried out the revolution for Islam, not so that the people could be fed. For them the economy means nothing."

"On the other side is president Bani Sadr and his supporters. He is attempting to create stability in Iran. He is for cooperation with the third world and Europe."

Khomeyni Regrets Chaos

"Where does Khomeyni himself stand in the picture?"

"Khomeyni spoke to the people recently. He said of the situation in Iran that this is not what he wanted. He asked the people for forgiveness for the chaotic conditions. He admits that he has lost control. I do not believe there are any great differences between Khomeyni and Bani Sadr but in certain questions the fanatics can probably pressure him."

"There are two Islamic groups within the government--one group that has the power and one that wants it. But despite their differences these groups manage to unite against the president and his supporters."

Worker Burned Self

"What sort of support does the government have among the Iranian people now?"

"It is on the decline. In the referendum on the Islamic republic 21.5 million of 22 million eligible voters voted yes. A year later there were elections for the Islamic parliament. In the first election only 12 million voted. This means that 9 million stayed at home. For the reelection it was 8 million."

"Dissatisfaction among the workers is extremely widespread. The government does not listen to their demands. An important source of protest is the notorious law 33. It was also attacked under the shah but is still in effect. Armed with it, employers can fire workers just like that. An Iranian worker burned himself in protest against that law and against repression on the job."

"The chaos. Does it apply to the economy, too?"

"Yes, very much so. In Iran there are shortages of almost all goods. Previously Iran was dependent on the United States. It is impossible

for Iran to become economically self-supporting all at once. Iran must cooperate with other countries. We in the CIS believe Iran must broaden cooperation with the third world. With regard to technology, it is also necessary to cooperate with Europe. On the other hand, we condemn agreements with the United States and the Soviet Union. This is also Bani Sadr's line. Both the right-wing fanatics and the pro-Soviet groups attack him for that. They attack Europe for being lackeys of United States imperialism. When Bani Sadr wishes to cooperate with Europe they call him a "CIA agent." The pro-Soviet groups are trying to isolate Iran from all other countries. In this way they want to force Iran into the hands of the Soviet Union. Hostage actions suit them to a T."

"You spoke of sabotage?"

"This is occurring in both agriculture and industry. Crops are set on fire. According to Iran's Radio the so-called Fada'i groups are behind it. These are the pro-Soviet groups that are working together with the Moscow oriented Tudeh Party."

"There is much sabotage in the oil industry, too. Under the shah Iran produced 5.5 million barrels of oil per year. After the revolution the authorities planned to reduce this to 4 million barrels. In practice, production has not risen above 1 million barrels. There are shortages of technicians and replacement parts. The situation is serious because oil is Iran's only export article of significance. Now there is little left over for exporting."

"As you portray it, it seems as though the right-wing fanatics and the supporters of Moscow are moving in the same direction. Is this true?"

"My impression is that the Soviet Union is supporting the Islamic fanatics. It does not matter to them what kind of laws Iran gets as long as the Soviet Union gains power and influence. There is also evidence that the pro-Soviet groups and the right-wing fanatics are trying to form a common front. At one time the Fada'i groups called for armed struggle against the government. They branded it "United States dependent" and "reactionary." Then, after one week, according to the Fada'i groups, the government suddenly became "revolutionary." At the same time, the Fada'i groups wrote in their newspaper that 'the Soviet Union is Iran's brother country,' and that they 'support Iran's government because of the 'socialist block.'"

"The leaders of the Fada'i groups have also had meetings with the leaders of the Islamic republic--the right-wing fanatics. Khomeini, for his part, has expressed that there is a plot behind the change in policy of the Fada'i groups."

Revolutionary Council Member Behind Coup

"There was an attempted coup in Iran last week, was there not?"

"A coup was planned against Bani Sadr. The fanatics see Bani Sadr as their greatest enemy. The leader of the coup is Hassan Afat. He is a member of the Revolutionary Council and a representative in the Islamic parliament. The coup attempt was discovered. Everyone knows Afat was behind it but, since he is a representative of the Islamic republic, no one will say anything. If he had not been such a representative he would have been executed on the spot."

"Is there any proof that the Soviet Union had a hand in this?"

"We have no evidence that the fanatics are working directly for the Soviet Union. But their policies are playing Iran into the hands of the Kremlin."

Fanatics Sent Soldiers

"What does the CIS think of the Kurd question in Iran?"

"Because of the regimentation of the right-wing fanatics it has been easy for the Soviet Union to play on the oppressed Kurdish people. The Kurds are Sunites (a movement within Islam), while the dominant priests are Shiites. These movements are not given equal status. We believe the only solution is to respect the rights of the Kurds. Among other things we believe they have a right to their own parliament. We are against all forms of violence toward the Kurds. President Bani Sadr is for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question. It is the right-wing fanatics who have sent military forces against them."

Invasion Awoke Iran

"Are the people of Iran following the invasion of Afghanistan?"

"The Soviet invasion has awakened the Iranian people. It has helped them understand the true nature of the Soviet Union. The Tudeh Party and the Fadai groups are attempting to portray the Soviet Union as Iran's friend. But the people no longer believe it. Iran and Afghanistan have a long history that unites us. The people in Iran have sympathy for Afghanistan and support the struggle for liberation. I can mention an example. Every Friday there are public prayers in Iran. After the invasion many people asked why the priests did not speak of Afghanistan. Then the priest in Tehran answered that even though the priests did not speak of Afghanistan every day this does not mean we do not support its people. The whole world, including Brezhnev, shall know that in all international forums we support the freedom fighters and not Karmal's lackey regime," Khomeini says.



"The invasion of Afghanistan awakened the Iranian people," Ghassem Momeni says.

9336
CSO: 3108

CLERICAL, SECULAR FACTIONS SQUARE OFF

Brussels SPECIAL in French 18 Aug 80 pp 15-16

(Text) The naming of Mr Mohammed Radjai, aligned with the ayatollahs, as prime minister, seems to deepen the divorce which exists, henceforth, between the two blocs in the governmental team. And this could have enormous fall-out effects in the medium term.

In the presidential elections, the Shi'ite clergy mobilized their support massively for Mr Bani-Sadr. Once elected head of state, he has ceaselessly battled the encroachments of this same clergy, which reproaches him with not showing himself sufficiently and exclusively Muslim, and with wanting to keep democratic structures in Iran (even if they are only a facade). For the very idea of a democratic system, with parties, a parliament, responsibilities, and popular representativity is, for the Ayatollah Khomeyni and his followers, a heresy: for Shi'ite fanatics, rigorous and traditional application of the Koran is everything, and everything else is pointless.

Get Around the President by the Prime Minister

Three weeks ago, after interminable negotiations, President Bani-Sadr called on a zealous partisan of the ayatollahs, Mr Mohammed Ali Radjai, to serve as prime minister. He also gave him the responsibility of forming a ministerial team, which is supposed to bring some order into the institutional chaos the country is experiencing. It would be necessary, for example, to have a responsible and balanced minister of justice, rather than [just] the Ayatollah Khomeyni, "itinerant judge," who leaves heaps of corpses in his wake... One week ago, the new prime minister gave to the president the list of ministers he planned for his governmental cabinet. And the president wasted no time rejecting this list. This refusal by the chief of state publicly exposed, both the disagreement (if not hostility) which exists between the two men, and the gap which has widened between the two main blocs which survived the coming to power of the Iranian revolution. The group with power behind it, that of the clergy, is on no account ready to ease off, whereas the other, that of the partisans of a "para-democratic" type regime, is tired of the disorder and

capriciousness which reigns in the country. In this regard, the interview just given by the minister for foreign affairs, Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, to the American weekly TIME is revealing. In this interview, the man responsible--officially--for Iranian diplomacy (?) states quite clearly that he would consider it inadmissible to stage a trial of the American hostages held in Iran. This is the same Mr Ghotbzadeh, moreover, who had to argue fiercely with the "Islamic students" who also wanted to hold the members of the UN commission hostage, the very commission created to deal with the fate of the hostages. And he was clearly throwing rocks right into the garden of the ayatollahs when he declared: "It is not by shouting down with the United States or down with the USSR that we will stir up revolutions in the world."

Prepare for the Future

The health of the Ayatollah Khomeyni (the Imam) is precarious. And if he were to disappear, no other religious leader has the stature needed to replace him. Then the question of authority would be posed: an authority to which both the clergy and the figures elected by the people, such as President Bani-Sadr, would accord allegiance. In the near future, it seems obvious that only a governmental team with men like Bani-Sadr and Ghotbzadeh would have sufficient cohesion to resist the post-Khomeyni maelstrom. Able to surround itself with "Islamic hostages" such as Prime Minister Radjai. But on condition that these "hostages" cannot manipulate the real levers of command. And one comes back to the dispute which presently pits the president and the prime minister against each other. For the chief of state is primarily opposed to the nomination for the ministry of the interior. A minister who, if he was of the "clerical clan," would sow disorder, repression, and violence in short order, not to speak of the fate eventually awaiting the American hostages. Now the "secular clan" realizes perfectly well that a trial of the hostages, with its possible consequences, would permanently alienate the few friends Iran has kept abroad and to which it above all remains attached. The difference in concept is perfectly exemplified by what is happening in Iran at the present moment. On the one hand, in the name of the Islamic revolution, President Bani-Sadr is trying to establish a democratic regime, in opposition to the old regime, and in the name of this same revolution Khomeyni refuses to give up his supervision of operations, since as Imam he is invested by God with the mission of watching over the destiny of Iran. A country which, almost certainly, is headed toward a civil war as soon as Khomeyni has left the scene. And the factions are numerous: the clergy, the educated technocrats of the revolution such as Bani-Sadr and Ghotbzadeh, the monarchists (especially within the army) and the advocates of a Western-style democracy who will be united behind the emissaries of ex-prime minister Shahpur Bakhtiar. And all this is not even to take into account the separatist movements... The Iran of tomorrow may well collapse like a house of cards. It remains to be seen who will pocket the trumps.

ALL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS ABOLISHED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Jul 80 p 16

/Article: "All International Schools throughout the Country are Dissolved"/

/Text/ All international schools throughout the country have been declared dissolved. From now on, there will be no schools administered by non-Iranians. Hoseyn Khoshnevisan, director general of education of Tehran, declared this subject at a press conference.

Khoshnevisan, who was speaking following the conclusion of the session which made the decision on this type of school (which had been convened in the presence of some education officials), added "In this manner, the dissolution of international schools is hereby declared and this conference itself proclaims the dissolution. If no circular letter is issued let no one imagine that international schools still exist." He then said,

"At this decision-making session, commissions have taken the necessary decisions to eliminate the problems which exist for the students in schools of this type. Commission members consist of competent persons who naturally are the guardians of their original students.

"At the present time, the guardians of students who have the necessary education to benefit from and apply their studies to ordinary schools are being advised to register their children at the school nearest their home. Students who do not have adequate education in terms of Persian literature should register in the same schools, in accordance with a program which has been set out; at the conclusion of a specific 'time' which will be necessary to prepare the student and apply the Persian language program, their study program will continue as in the past, in accordance with the basic changes which are being made by an appointed group." Khoshnevisan then said,

"From the financial standpoint, that group of curricula which correspond to the Ministry of Education curriculum will be at our expense and the costs for that portion of studies which needs time for application (for example, physics or chemistry in French or German) will be at the expense

of the guardians themselves. Of course it is necessary to mention that the 'time' determined for application of the curricula for the elementary stage will not be more than 1 year; that is, in the academic year 1981-82. Education will have no responsibilities toward that type of student."

Minority Schools

The director general of Tehran education then referred to the schools of religious minorities and said,

"Regarding schools for Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians, every right which an Iranian requires from the educational standpoint will be made available with respect to them, and the subject of Article 13 of the constitution, that is, instruction in ethnic languages, will be observed in every sense. There is no problem regarding religious observances which concern the level of the school; nonetheless, one must note that the school and church must be separate, although both are places of education."

He added, "In the coming school year we will have no school by the name of a majority or minority school, and all schools will be uniform."

11887

CSO: 4906

KING CLOSES EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Final Speeches

Rabat L'OPINION in French 1 Sep 80 pp 1, 3

[Text] Ifr-ne--From our Special Correspondent Mohamed Tamri. The work on the national education conference was ended yesterday with a speech given by His Majesty King Hassan II pronounced just before noon before all the participants meeting in the capital of Ifrane province, in the presence of SAR [expansion unknown] the Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, members of the government led by Me Maati Bouabid, prime minister and minister of justice, Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baha, president of the chamber of representatives, and several other personalities.

In his speech, H.M. King Hassan II decided to create a national commission which will work at his side and will be responsible for arriving at conclusions that will be submitted to Parliament in the April session. His Majesty the King said that this commission will be composed of heads of political parties participating in these meetings, presidents of commissions, political personalities inadequately represented in the chamber of representatives, the minister of finance and the planning authority.

If need be the commission will be able to call on the help of Moroccan or foreign experts.

His Majesty Hassan II said that the work of all the commissions unfolded in a climate marked by a certain awareness and that the participants understood the nature, the importance, and the scope of the problem.

"We have decided," the sovereign added, "that the elite should meet to examine the questions related to education and look at the ideas in order to come to a national solution."

The sovereign emphasized also that he preferred to opt for the path of dialog in order to come to a unification of the ranks in face of the crucial problems.

His Majesty Hassan II, finally, thanked the participants for their contribution to the success of these sessions.

Dr Azzedine Laraki made a statement which aroused great satisfaction and reaffirmed optimism as to the flexibility that faculty enrollments have shown. Dr Laraki was to say that 5,808 places are still available on the faculties of letters, law, and the sciences. This will allow the enrollment of more candidates for the baccalaureate.

To this end, the minister has decided to proceed with a third period of enrollment starting 15 September. Dr Laraki was also to say that he has assumed his political responsibility in the government as to the implementation of guidelines for the university re-opening and that he had taken, in coordination with the deans, all the technical measures to organize it in the way in which it has unfolded.

For his part Mr Abderrazak Afilal on behalf of the UGTM [General Union of Moroccan Workers] gave a speech in which he underlined that it is necessary to adopt an overall solution for the problems in education. It was observed that in general problems do not excite great interest except when one is confronted with an immediate crisis, such as university re-opening, as is the case this year.

To establish a systematic education policy, brother Afilal made an appeal for guidelines to be established, starting at the end of primary education, that are centered on vocational training capable of providing the mid-level cadres, as well as [centered] on general and technical education adequate for training the upper cadres of which the country has need.

Mr Abderrazak Afilal was also to emphasize that UGTM has elaborated a radical plan for structural reform in education which will be submitted to the various committees of the colloquium.

Mr Afilal was also to say:

"I have the honor to speak to this colloquium on behalf of the UGTM, and first of all I must express our sincere thanks to H.M. the King who has given us this opportunity to express our concerns on educational questions.

"In our view, the crisis in education is structural. The causes of this crisis lie in the fact that we are falling into generalities without broaching the very foundation of the educational problem. This is what happened in the colloquium of 1964, and in similar meetings. I certainly hope we will avoid this practice in this colloquium."

We have met at a time when we are faced with the problem of university re-opening, or what has been called in other terms university orientation. For our part we consider that any orientation which is only beginning at this phase can only perpetuate a serious mistake which has characterized education for years.

The orientation, in our opinion, should begin at the end of primary school, by creating a common base, of a duration of two years, which at the end of two years leads to two main branches: that of ordinary education which leads to the second secondary cycle, and that of vocational training which leads to the formation of mid-level cadres destined to satisfy the needs of our economic development. It must be emphasized that finishing studies in this branch will allow the better elements to go on to technical education which begins at the level of the second cycle, which in turn leads to higher technical education--the school of engineering, for example.

I return to the question of the common base, to re-emphasize that all those who follow it will end up either with the acquisition of a trade which will be useful to them and by consequence answer societal needs, or they will go on to normal schooling with its cycle of 3 years and which ends up in two branches:

One branch which we can call functional education, which trains teachers and certain cadres of the private and public sector. The second branch leads to university education, which trains the upper cadres and furnishes the raw material for scientific research. I would like to present here the opinion of UGTM as to the question of teacher training. In fact the training should have for its ultimate foundation mastery of the teaching profession. This cannot be acquired except through a sufficient period of training, and cannot be less than 3 years.

We are proposing this, that the choice of students to be trained as teachers be made among the students of the sixth secondary year, which is obviously a temporary solution while waiting for the implementation of functional education.

The problem of education which distinguishes this period is in the first place that of university re-opening. It is evident that our position is to give all bachelors the opportunity to enroll in the institution of their choice. We can overcome the problem created this year, that is certain. But what would our position be during the coming years when the number of bachelors increases.

This situation requires us to find definitive solutions and to come to agreement on the fundamental choices. The problems we are confronting, moreover, are only the result of the improvised policies adopted by the various ministries of education in previous years. I believe it is time to find a basic and all-encompassing solution to the problem."

In other developments, brother Mohamed Louafa, secretary general of Istiqlaliyan Youth, gave a speech in which he said in the first place that the discussion on educational questions was undertaken without any objective discussion of the economic and social crisis, of which the education crisis is only a reflection.

In other developments, brother Mohamed Louafa, secretary general of Istiqlalian Youth, gave a speech in which he said in the first place that the discussion on educational questions was undertaken without any objective discussion of the economic and social crisis, of which the education crisis is only a reflection.

Mr Louafa also pointed out that every time educational questions are discussed, resolutions and motions are adopted. These latter, unfortunately, remain dead letters. Moreover, this very fact is constantly aggravating problems and creating an atmosphere of distrust between citizens and officials. And Mr Louafa stressed that the prescriptions suggested on behalf of the Istiqlalian Party by combatant Hachmi Filali are after all those of the Istiqlalian Youth which for its part stresses that the cause of the problem lies in the insufficiency of university places. This situation is due to the waste, with regard to construction and equipment, in certain institutions, whereas we could have built a sufficient number of university institutions with adequate equipment for the same cost.

With regard to orientation, it must be recognized that it is a mistake to initiate it at the university level. Therefore, we must consider it at the beginning of secondary school and in such a way that this orientation can answer to the economic needs of the country, without, notwithstanding, failing to take into account the capacities and the preferences of the student.

Brother Louafa was also to emphasize that the interest of this colloquium should be centered on the university re-opening, but without ignoring student choice.

Mr Louafa then launched into the problem of scholarships, and recalled the unshakeable principle of Istiqlalian Youth as to generalization of scholarships. This without, nevertheless, putting on an equal footing the provided-for student and the poor student who is obliged--through his scholarship--to support his family.

'AL-BAYANE' Comment

Casablanca AL-BAYANE in French 2 Sep 80 p 1

[Editorial--passages between slantlines originally published in capitals]

[Text] Ifrane is over...But, paradoxically, everything is only beginning!

As we noted in our previous editorial--and before the end of the colloquium--it could be considered that in itself this assembling of "all the concerned parties" to the education crisis marked a new stage in the process of the democratization of public life:

Today, in examining the decisions and recommendations made by the "conference on national education," one truly finds that this stage has brought the results one could legitimately hope for.

And this is where the value of democratic concertation is manifested: it allows the submission of proposals and ideas which would otherwise be swept aside in bureaucratic and partisan spirit; it gives the representatives of the popular interests and their "spokesmen" the opportunity to express their urgent demands and to defend their rights. And in fact what happened at Ifrane was good.

Without any pretension it can be stated that the representatives of progressive forces, including the FFS [Party of Progress and Socialism], marked the work of the colloquium and its recommendations by their presence and their ideas.

They advanced proposals and reiterated principles which were /adopted unanimously by the participants/-which in turn is a reflection of national unanimity--and which advances the broad lines of an emergency rescue plan, essentially in the domain of education.

In testimony whereof, all the hasty and arbitrary measures which barred access to the universities were swept away.

In other developments, many concrete suggestions were made which eloquently prove that no problem is insoluble if one agrees to resolve it on the basis of just solutions founded on the people's concerns and not on bureaucratic views cut off from the masses.

And therefore one is able to think that the 1960-1961 university re-opening will be able to unfold under much better circumstances than what otherwise could have been. No hasty will be refused, there will be no preliminary selection, no initiative or arbitrary action.

These measures are from Ifrane, but--as we keep saying--let it not be forgotten that they come directly from the views and positions of the leftist forces--the FFS, UFTF [Union of Forces of Popular Forces], UNEM [National Union of Moroccan Students], etc.

Now everything is beginning.

After having obtained the approval of all parties present to their proposals, the forces of progress owe it to themselves to watch over their implementation and realization.

It is a new democratic battle which is under way, one which requires translating the Ifrane resolutions into reality and into facts.

No doubt, in the enterprise ahead, we will have the full support of the people and the masses.

With regard to the question of improving the administrative management system, the participants agreed that this improvement would be achieved through the introduction of data processing.

In order to encourage state employees to work in the interior of the country, consideration was given during the meeting to a draft laying down the privileges and inducements to be granted them for that purpose.

9434

CSO: 4400

SIXTH PLAN TO ENCOMPASS ALL CURRENTS, TENDENCIES

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 18-19 Aug 80 p 4

[Article: "Mr Mezri Chekir in Monastir: The Committee Responsible for Preparing the Sixth Plan Will Bring Together All Currents"]

[Text] Three Tunisian banks for foreign cooperation will be set up.

The development of the tourist sector was the object of an open discussion organized by the Regional Hotel and Tourism Federation of the Monastir governorate under the chairmanship of Mr Mezri Chekir, director of the prime minister's cabinet, in the presence of Mr Mansour Skhiri, governor of the region, and of a good number of hotel-keepers and officials of financial institutions.

Replying to the participants, Mr Mezri Chekir pointed out that the expansion of the tourist sector, which provides some 100,000 jobs, does not depend only on the quality of the services, but also on the socio-political stability of the country, a stability which, he said, encourages investments in Tunisia by holders of capital, such as Middle East businessmen, who are already beginning to finance the carrying out of some projects in our country.

And Mr Mezri Chekir added:

"The secret of the success of Tunisian policy and the credit enjoyed by Tunisia in the concert of nations lie in President Bourguiba's prestige and in the country's political stability."

The director of the prime minister's cabinet then brought out the need for safeguarding the nation's assets, in particular, by the preservation of the healthy socio-political climate which prevails in the country. "That is,"

he stated, "a responsibility that falls not only on the government and the party, but also on the whole national community, which should give proof of straightforwardness, of discipline and of solidarity..." (as published)

Dealing with the need to protect the environment against pollution, Mr Meari Chokir stressed the efforts made by the government in this direction, indicating that the establishment of an ecological structure was under study.

Mr Meari Chokir brought out, moreover, the prime minister's concern for developing among all citizens a spirit of cooperation and cohesion, this in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Commandant. "This option," he noted, "tends to strengthen the invulnerability of the state, whose action is governed by Bourguibian principles, with the result that the party remains open to all and justice remains independent."

In this context, the director of the prime minister's cabinet announced that the committee responsible for preparing the Sixth Plan will bring together all currents and all tendencies so that the whole of the national community will take part in strengthening the foundations of full-scale development.

He stressed, moreover, that the measures taken with a view to setting up three Tunisian banks for cooperation with other countries would solve all the financing and loan-granting problems and would not fail to reassure businessmen wishing to start tourist projects.

Mr Meari Chokir, in conclusion, brought out the Supreme Commandant's interest in development projects and his concern for associating all levels of staff in their implementation.

He transmitted to the participants the prime minister's greetings and the attention given by him to the tourist sector because of the essential role which the latter plays in the strengthening of the national economy. He expressed the prime minister's determination to take measures of a nature to promote this sector, while at the same time preserving the country's moral, social and spiritual values.

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TUNISIA

PREPARATIONS FOR RETURN OF TUNISIANS WORKING OUT OF COUNTRY

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 18-19 Aug 60 p 4

[Article: "Seminar on Tunisian Workers Abroad: For a Gradual and Organized Return"]

[Text] As foreseen, the principal theme of the 14th congress on Tunisian workers abroad, which took place on 16 August at the El Ouzane Lycee, was the eventual return to the country of our expatriate workers. All those attending the congress were indeed unanimous in recognizing that this return, in view of present circumstances in the host countries, has become a very serious possibility.

What were the principal conclusions of the congress on this subject?

First, it is the worker and the worker alone who has the right to decide the time of his return. As pointed out by the minister of social affairs at the end of the work of the congress, it was the worker who decided to leave for abroad, and the government helped him do this. His return should be made in the same fashion. It is thus the responsibility of our expatriates not to yield to the pressures which some authorities are beginning to exert on them to induce them to return in a precipitous manner, just as it is their responsibility not to succumb to the offers which are painted in glowing colors so that they will leave their place of work. Yes to a return, but no to a forced return should be a motto of our workers.

Second: In agreeing to emigrate, every worker had as his goal the improvement of his financial and social situation. It would therefore be absurd to require him to return to the country empty-handed in order to occupy the same position that impelled him to leave. Yes to a return, but no to just any return is another motto for our expatriates who would wish to return home surrounded by all the guarantees of success, whether through adequate training, enabling them to occupy a post useful to the country and likely to guarantee them a decent wage, or through a minimum amount of capital which they could lay to advantage in the country. It is therefore the duty of the host countries to provide our workers with the vocational training to which they have a right. It is, on the other hand, our workers' responsibility to try

to improve themselves vocationally as well as intellectually, especially since their presence in countries allowing, by several means available, (evening courses, etc.) (as published) such an improvement could only encourage them to do so. It is, lastly, their responsibility to prepare suitably for their return by keeping themselves regularly informed about employment or investment possibilities which occur in the country and not to wait for their return before deciding on their later activities.

Third: The task which falls on the Tunisian authorities in preparing for the return of these expatriates is no less important. It consists first of all in protecting their interests during their stay abroad, with all that this requires in the way of cooperation agreements, direct and regular contacts to protect their rights and their authenticity. It consists further in providing them with the place they are entitled to in Tunisian society, in guaranteeing them maximum employment, decent housing and investment incentives.

Our expatriate workers constitute a very important productive work force which unfavorable circumstances have obliged us to give up for the benefit of foreign countries. These countries at present consider that they no longer need them. So much the better for us, even with the little time they leave for us to reintegrate them adequately.

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TUNISIA

SUGAR PRODUCTION TOO LOW FOR DOMESTIC NEEDS

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 11 Aug 80 p 56

[Article by A.M.]

[Text] The national sugar beet production is still very low; to meet its needs, Tunisia must look abroad. The Bou Salem sugar mill is needed; it is designed to expand production and to slow down the rural exodus.

As part of the preparatory work being done for the sixth economic and social development plan, DIALOGUE, in its economic reportage, is considering some problems of vital interest to Tunisian society.

All the actions taken are designed to bring about an economic recovery, to ensure self-sufficiency in food production, to guarantee job security, and to reduce regional and sectorial imbalance.

The projects being carried out are quite numerous and varied. In the industrial sector there are: ICM [Maghreb Chemical Industries] 1 and ICM 2; the STIR [Tunisian-Italian Refining Company]; SOFOMECA [expansion unknown]; Goulette 1 and Goulette 2; the Sousse power plant. In the transportation sector there are: the CTN [expansion unknown], SNT [National Transportation Company], SRT, STM [expansions unknown], and Tunis-Air. In agriculture: dams, offices, complexes, greenhouse cultivation, the STIL [expansion unknown], and animal husbandry projects.

In sugar, in terms of meeting household needs and the demand of some industries (confectionery, soft drinks), the national production is still low, and Tunisia must resort to imports.

The sugar beet harvest, the basic raw material used at the Beja sugar mill, varies between 118,000 tons--a record in 1977, and 60,000 tons, the quantity produced in 1979. So the production varies by 100 percent. The decline in the last few years is attributed to the limited capacity of the enterprise, the rather low rainfall, the reduction of cultivated lands, and the decline of the rate of return. There is also the tendency of farmers in the region to grow vegetable crops which are considered more profitable than sugar beets. All these factors added together have had quite a negative impact on sugar beet cultivation and thus on sugar production.

That is why Tunisia is turning abroad to buy raw sugar in a solid state, which is then refined at the Beja sugar mill. In the past 5 years, the average imports of sugar, coming primarily from Cuba, the Netherlands, France, and Belgium, have been 50,000 tons, for a price of 5 million dinars. This amounts to a price of 100 millimes per kilo.

The production of the sugar company (from sugar beets and from the refining of imported sugar) does not manage to cover local consumption. The demand for granulated or powdered sugar came to 111,000 tons on the average, during the period considered. This cost 140 million dinars, or 140 millimes per kilo.

We note the diverging trend between the amounts imported, which are increasing slightly, and the corresponding costs, which are declining; that is due to the decline in the world sugar price.

We should comment, though, that Tunisia does export refined sugar in the form of sugar cubes, primarily to Algeria; in 1979, Tunisia exported 32,600 tons for 5.4 million dinars.

The government is naturally aware of the inadequacy of our sugar production. A joint cabinet committee has studied this problem, and the decision to establish a second sugar mill at Bou Salem is a good one.

The development of this industry proves the interest of the state in the western regions; it will help, insofar as possible,

to limit the rural exodus toward urban areas, to reduce the number of the unemployed, and to keep in the area the labor needed for the enterprise to operate satisfactorily.

Overall Data on Sugar (in thousands of tons)

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Production of:					
sugar from beets (1)	6.3	7.9	9.5	7.4	6.1
refined sugar (2)	51.4	45.2	29.8	47.5	51.0
Total (STS)	57.7	53.1	39.3	54.9	57.1
Lump or cube sugar (3)	34.2	44.4	38.5	51.5	52.0
Imports of:					
raw sugar in solid state	54.5	54.8	34.7	51.6	47.0
granulated sugar	64.9	122.6	124.9	119.6	126.5
other sugars		5.8		1.1	0.9
Total	119.4	183.2	159.6	172.3	174.4
Exports of:					
refined sugar in cubes	22.1	36.0	31.7	28.2	32.6

(1) Local production

(2) Based on imported raw sugar

(3) Based on imported granulated sugar.

Source: INS [National Statistics Institute] documents.

The economic policy followed by the government is designed to develop our human resources, to promote the good of society, and the good of the citizen.

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TUNISIA

FORMER COORDINATION COMMITTEE HEAD, MOHAMED TROUDI ARRESTED

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 22 Aug 80 p 4

[Article: "Former Secretary General of Bizerte Coordination Committee Arrested"]

[Text] As a result of the decision taken by the Political Committee to disband four coordination committees including the one in Bizerte, the former secretary general of the Bizerte Coordination Committee, Mohamed Troudi, undertook, through an agent he himself recruited, the destruction of official documents belonging to the Coordination Committee, a matter of surprise to the authorities, all the more since the destruction of these documents took place immediately after Mohamed Troudi had been informed of the disbanding of the committee of which he was secretary general.

During the interrogation, the agent implicated stated that the documents destroyed and burned represented minutes of congresses of cells, documents related to the work of social solidarity, and the stubs of books of vouchers for donations intended for the construction of a mosque.

Considering the gravity of the act, which constitutes an infraction of the law, in view of the deliberate intention of its instigator and the admissions of the agent, who stated, following the discovery of the operation, that he had acted on the direct order of Mohamed Troudi and not on his own initiative, an arrest order was issued against the former secretary general of the Coordination Committee. He was handed over to the public prosecutor's department, where the investigation is continuing. This infraction was not the only one committed by Troudi. Indeed, some of his previous schemes confirm his tendency to use his responsibilities with the party for purely personal aims and interests.

Mention can be made, in this connection, of Troudi's acquisition of a property (Henchir) at Jtique, known under the name of "Ouakef Sidi El Arbi," for the benefit of his relatives. Using his status as party official, he forced the owners of this property to give it up to him at the derisory price of 27,000 dinars, whereas the real value of this property, which covers 120 hectares, is 70,000 dinars, if not more, according to an agricultural expert's estimate, especially since a part of the property is irrigated in view of its location in the Medjerda valley.

Troudi, by fraudulent maneuvers, since he had not succeeded at first in convincing the liquidator in charge of the property--let us recall that an inheritance was involved--was going to claim to the heirs that he had an authorization from the government to buy the said property at a price markedly lower than the one he was offering them. The latter agreed, unwillingly, to conclude the transaction, which obliged the regional authorities to intervene recently to put an end to these schemings and extortions by restoring the property to its legitimate owners.

Another affair proves Troudi's utilization of his responsibilities for personal ends, sowing, by these acts, dissension and discord.

In fact, a citizen recently made a complaint to the Justice Department in which he affirmed having been the object of a planned attack by some ex-convicts, who are the hired men of certain parties and work on the order of the Coordination Committee's ex-secretary general. One of them recanted for fear of returning once again to prison, according to his own admission during the preliminary investigation.

In the framework of these schemings, let us again mention a no less serious act. Troudi even used the Coordination Committee's assets in accordance with his wishes. About a year ago, he gave a car belonging to the committee to someone in his entourage in charge of an agricultural cooperative against a bad check without, for all that, demanding the amount until the examining judge found the check and ordered the restitution of the Coordination Committee car. Such are the acts, among others not yet disclosed, which show that the ex-secretary general of the Bizerte Coordination Committee is primarily concerned with satisfying his personal interests, interests which are entirely in contradiction with the general interest, using his official status.

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TUNISIA

BRIEFS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHANGES--Yesterday morning, during a plenary session presided over by Mr Sadak Mokaddem, the National Assembly adopted a draft report submitted by the committee on parliamentary immunity stripping Deputy Hassen Kacem of his parliamentary immunity. Before closing the meeting, Mr Sadak Mokaddem announced that Ameer Ben Aicha had lost his status as deputy to the National Assembly as the result of his exclusion from the PSD [Destourian Socialist Party] and in application of the provisions of article 109 of the electoral code. The president of the National Assembly stated that the necessary measures were taken to provide in due time for this recess. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 22 Aug 80 p 1] 9434

FOREIGN POLICY DEBATES--The National Assembly's expanded committees yesterday morning held a meeting which they devoted to the discussion of the country's foreign policy. Mr Hassan Belkhoja, minister of foreign affairs, was to give, on that occasion a talk on the different activities of Tunisian diplomacy, bringing out in particular the importance that it gives to cooperative and neighborly relations. The minister also brought up some questions regarding Tunisia's relations with neighboring countries, the Arab world, the Islamic community and Africa. He then gave details of the positions taken by Tunisia with regard to the Palestinian cause and to El Qods, which Israel had decided to annex and to consider as its eternal capital, thus trampling on international resolutions and scorning the Islamic community's feelings. The minister also surveyed Tunisia's relations with Western Europe, the North-South dialog and international economic problems. During the debate, the deputies raised questions regarding Tunisia's relations with its sister countries. The deputies also discussed Tunisia's relations with the European Community and particularly the future of this cooperation after the anticipated expansion of the EEC. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 20 Aug 80 p 5] 9435

THERMAL POWER PLANT--An order for electro-mechanical equipment will be submitted for the first phase of construction of a thermal power station at Rades, near Tunis (300 MW net unit power), two identical power sections of between 140 and 160 MW each, on firm order. Two supplemental sections of equal power will be sought on option, bringing the station's total power to 600 MW at the conclusion of the second phase. Total cost envisioned for completion of the first phase: 80-85 million dinars. [Excerpts] [Paris L'USINE NOUVELLE in French 4 Sep 80 p 35]

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